(a) whether it is a fact that many important files of Ministry of Defence including a file relating to defence purchase deal are missing and as a result of which the investigation being conducted by the Central Vigilance Commission is hampered;

(b) if so, the number of the missing files and the related matters thereof;

(c) whether Government are making efforts to search the said files; if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) whether any action is being taken against the persons responsible for maintenance of these files; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (e) As on date, as per the available records, 4 files relating to defence purchase deals are still being traced. As regards, the file relating to banning of middlemen/ agents/middle companies in the procurement of weapons and weapon systems, the same has since been retrieved and sent to the Central Vigilance Commission on July 21,2000.

**Air crashes**

† 320. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR:
SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: SHRI
JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of MIG aircrafts which met with accidents during the last three years and the current year, so far, year-wise;

(b) the number of pilots died and wounded in these accidents;

(c) whether any thorough enquiry of these accidents has ever been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and whether any technical fault has been detected in these MIG aircrafts; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps to prevent such accidents of fighter aircrafts meant to defend the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES); (a) and (b) †

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Since 1997-98 till 20th July 2000, IAF has lost 54 MIG aircrafts in accidents. The year-wise details are as under:—

| | **Aircraft lost** |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 12 |
| *1998-99* | 18 |
| 1999-2000 | 18 |
| 2000-2001 | 6 |
| TOTAL: | 54 |

21 pilots were kilted and 10 were injured in these accidents.

(c) to (e) After each accident, a Court of Inquiry (COI) is conducted to find out the reasons of the accidents and also to suggest remedial measures. Findings of the *Court of* Inquiries reveal that technical defect, human error and bird hit are the three main causes for some of these accidents.

A High Powered Committee on Fighter Aircraft Accidents (COFAA) was constituted under the chairmanship of Scientific Adviser to Raksha Mantri to analyse the causes of accidents which submitted its report in September, 1997. It has made certain recommendations to minimize accident rate. Implementation of these recommendations would involve changes in organizational structure, procedures, training, design, technology *etc.* About 55 out of 84 recommendations have been implemented so far.

**Finalisation of defence deal with Russia**

321. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised a defence deal with Russia to acquire T-90 tanks and "KIEV" class naval aircraft during the recent visit of the Defence Minister to Russia;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and decisions taken; and

(c) the impact on our defence expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. (b) and (c) Do not arise.